

PLURAL FORMATION IN ENGLISH

SPELLING

- s

- * BED > BED**S**
- * HORSE > HORSE**S**
- * vocal + "y" = DAY > DAY**S**

- es

- * after sibilant (unless silent "E") = BOX > BOX**ES** / CHURCH > CHURCH**ES**
- * consonant + "y" = COUNTRY > COUNTRY**IES** (unless proper names: KENNEDY**S**)

gemination

- * QUIZ > QUIZZ**ES**

singular - "o"

- * **O** > **OS** = RADIO > RADIO**S** / PIANO > PIANO**S**
- * **O** > **OES** = POTATO > POTATO**ES** (vacillation: BUFFALO or BANJO)

PRONUNCIATION

- * **/ɪz/** after sibilant = HORSES / BOXES / CHURCHES / LANGUAGE**S**
- * **/z/** after voiced sounds = BED**S**
- * **/s/** after voiceless sounds = HAT**S**

IRREGULAR PLURALS

- * - **F** / -**FE** > **VES** = HALF > HAL**VES** / WIFE > WIV**ES** (but ROOF**S** / THIEF**S**)
- * a change in the medial vowel = FOOT > FEET / MAN > MEN
- * **different words** = MOUSE > MICE
- * -**EN** = CHILD > CHILDREN / OX > OXEN (but OX**ES** in American English)